



NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT
1948.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
A. L. THORBURN,

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

the Report of the Sanitary Inspector
E. W. BUSHELL.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

of the

URBAN DISTRICT OF NANTWICH,

for the Year 1948,

by A. L. THORBURN, M.D., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

and the

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,

E. W. BUSHELL, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Health Department,
Nantwich Urban District Council,
Brookfield House,
NANTWICH,
Cheshire.

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Health Department,
Council Offices,
Brookfield House,
NANTWICH.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Nantwich Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1948. In directing the attention of the members to the features contained therein, I would state that the credit for the work covered by this report is due to Dr. Kenneth Knowles to whom I am greatly indebted.

The Vital Statistics section shows that Nantwich is a healthy town and that its birth rate, death rate and infant mortality compare very favourably with similar towns. One can safely forecast however, from the present trends of population in this country as a whole, that in 1960 the school population will be at its peak and thereafter a decline must be expected.

On the other hand, it is noteworthy that the number of pensioners will continue to increase and become proportionately more important and hence place a gradually increasing burden on the social services. In this connection I would point out that this County has already a progressive scheme for a number of hostels for the aged, which properly and adequately maintained and humanely administered should provide one of the greatest assets of the social services.

It is a matter for much regret that the fewer entrants into the great profession of nursing has given Hospital Management Committees and Hospital Boards tremendous difficulties in perfecting and expanding the existing services. I would mention that the number of beds closed for want of staff in hospitals in Great Britain on December 31st, 1948, was 59,903.

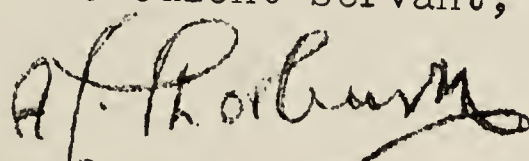
This year has seen much new legislation and especially noteworthy are the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act. Many problems and difficulties therein are still to be encountered and overcome and one can only sincerely hope that among the cardinal achievements of the former Act will be rapid admission to hospitals whenever necessary.

It is a matter for grave disquiet that vaccination against smallpox is now entirely voluntary; recent figures indicate that less than ten per cent of newly born babies are vaccinated. In a few years time there will be a considerable unprotected population which could prove a most difficult problem and danger in the event of an outbreak of this disease.

I wish to express my grateful thanks to the staff of the Health Department for their helpful assistance in the past year and in the compilation of this report.

In directing the attention of the members to the features of the report I desire to thank them for their continued interest, constructive criticism and helpful guidance at all times.

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 1,175 acres. Estimated population at mid-1948: 8,780.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to rate book: 2,643.
Rateable value: £47,683. Sum represented by penny rate: £177. 8. 4d.

Nantwich is an ancient town situated in the south-west corner of Cheshire and is a market town for a large and important agricultural area. The River Weaver and the Shropshire Union Canal pass through the district and in parts both form the boundary of the Urban Area.

Industrial enterprise exists mainly in the form of clothing manufacture, agricultural machinery and a tannery. There is scope for the establishment of light industries, road and rail communications being very convenient; by rail the town is served by the main lines from Crewe to Shrewsbury and Wellington and good roads radiate from the town to all parts of Cheshire, Shropshire, the Potteries and North Wales.

Vital Statistics.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate ...	72	63	135
	Illegitimate ...	6	3	9
	TOTAL	78	66	144

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.40

<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate ...	2	2	4
	Illegitimate ...	-	-	-
	TOTAL	2	2	4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 27.02

<u>Deaths</u>	TOTAL (including inward transfers)	44	58	102
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Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.61

Death rate of infants under one year:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	27.77
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.62
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Deaths from:-

Puerperal sepsis	-
Other puerperal causes	1
Cancer (all ages)	19
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under two years)	-
Respiratory tuberculosis (all ages)	3

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

The extent of unemployment in the district during the year was negligible.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Medical Officer of Health K. Knowles, F.R.C.S., Part time.
succeeded by
*A. L. Thorburn, M.D., Full time.
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector E. W. Bushell, M.R.S.I., Full time.
M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Engineer and Surveyor E. H. Bailey, F.R.I.C.S., Full time
M.I.Mun.E., Dip.T.P.
(Man.), A.M.T.P.I.

*Jointly appointed as County Divisional Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to Nantwich Urban and Rural District Councils.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens were submitted to:-

- (i) County Council Public Health Department Laboratory, Chester.
- (ii) Evans Biological Institute, Runcorn.
- (iii) Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.
- (iv) Chester Royal Infirmary.

Water samples for bacteriological and chemical examination were sent to the Public Health Laboratory.

Milk and ice-cream samples for biological and bacteriological examination were submitted to the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary.

A new Public Health Laboratory was recently commenced at Monsall Fever Hospital which will undertake practically all the usual range of bacteriological and pathological investigation except the chemical examination of water. The laboratory at Chester Royal Infirmary will undertake a certain amount of this work also.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Non-infectious and accident cases

The Urban and Rural District Councils of Nantwich maintained a joint service until July 1948.

Infectious cases

The Joint Isolation Hospital Board maintained an ambulance for infectious disease cases until July 1948.

The County now undertakes this service through the Divisional Health Committee. There are two ambulances stationed at Nantwich on a 24 hour on call basis to meet the needs of accidents, emergencies and infectious disease cases and also supplementing this work is the British Red Cross Ambulance at Haslington.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The district's nursing needs are well served by two Health Visitors and three midwives all residing within the Urban District.

(d) Consultation and Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic at The Dowery, Barker Street, is controlled by the County Council and two trained Health Visitors and School Nurses are in attendance. Visiting Clinicians examine children for defective vision and diseases of the eyes, dental surgery, diseases of the ear, nose and throat and minor ailments.

With further reconstruction these premises will incorporate an Ante Natal and Post Natal Department which should prove a helpful innovation for mothers in the District.

The Venereal Diseases Clinic at Herdman Street, Crewe, is maintained by the County Council, as also is an Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis Clinic at Crewe; both centres serve an area including this Urban District.

(e) Hospitals in the District.

The Barony Hospital, a former Poor Law Institution at Nantwich, serves this area to a great extent with its beds for the chronic sick. Certain building changes are envisaged in this hospital by the Regional Hospital Board. There is also the Cottage Hospital, a small but most modern and efficient institution, with beds for 18 patients.

In addition to these there is a suitable Isolation Hospital at Alvaston and a Smallpox Hospital at Ravensmoor.

The Wybunbury Cliffe Maternity Hospital provides proper and suitable amenities for mothers, although staffing such hospitals appears difficult.

Wrenbury Hall is an agricultural and industrial colony for the residential treatment of tuberculosis cases in the County who are capable of some work.

(f) Mortuary.

The present premises are entirely unsatisfactory and may be dismantled within a year to make way for a new housing scheme and consequently there is a very urgent need for properly equipped and adequate premises to serve the needs of the district.

SECTION C.

1. (a) Water Supply.

This is now controlled by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board.

There is a sufficiency of water for the present needs of the existing population (drought conditions excepted), and the quality of the water as delivered to the consumer is satisfactory. Chemical and bacteriological analyses are made frequently and a summary of results is appended.

Most of the Urban District is supplied from Baddiley Waterworks; the water is pumped to Ravensmoor reservoir (capacity 250,000 gallons) gravitating from that point to the town. There is a constant supply and water is supplied direct to premises although in many instances (estimated 50 houses accommodating approximately 150 persons) it is not piped internally to individual houses.

There is a slight plumbo-solvent action; according to the analyses this has in the past varied from nil to .07 parts per 100,000 after 24 hours contact. Tin-lined lead pipes are used for house services. Occasionally there is a trace of action on aluminium and iron, but not enough to be stated numerically.

The water is treated on the "Dual Coagulation" principle, the following chemicals being added:- sulphate of alumina, sodium aluminate, sodium carbonate and hydrated lime. Following treatment the water is passed through pressure filters and chlorinated.

The quantity of water fed into the Nantwich Urban District is not separately metered so that it is not possible to give the total quantity of water provided to the town.

The Engineer and Manager of the Water Board has made the following observations in connection with the Baddiley Mere supply.

"The quality of the raw water at Baddiley Mere is generally poor and on occasions is extremely bad. This potential danger requires very careful supervision of the treatment processes and great reliance is placed on the chlorination process for the ultimate sterilization. Owing to the small yield and poor quality of this Baddiley supply, the Board is taking steps to discontinue its regular use, and mainlaying work for this purpose will be begun in October 1949."

The following is a summary of sample results during the year:-
Bacteriological Examination.

Number sub- mitted	Source	Number in which organisms de- veloped on yeastrel - agar in 48 hours at 37°C.			Bacillus Coli Aerogenes per 100 c.c.		
		None	Present	Range per c.c.	Absent	Present	Range of probable number
	<u>Samples submitted by Water Board:-</u>						
6	Baddiley Mere - Raw	-	6	2 - 30	-	6	1 - 90
24	Baddiley Mere - Treated	15	9	1 - 5	22	2	1 - 3
5	Ravensmoor Reservoir - Baddiley	3	2	1 - 3	4	1	3
37	Consumers' Taps	26	11	1 - 10	37	-	-
3	Bearstone Supply - Raw	3	-	-	3	-	-
75	TOTALS	47	28	1 - 30	66	9	1 - 90
	<u>Samples submitted by Health Department:-</u>						
1	Consumer's Tap	-	1	315	1	-	-
		This sample de- veloped 47,300 colonies per c.c. in 72 hours at 22°C.					

Chemical Examination.

Sample submitted by Water Board:-

Baddiley Mere Raw Water

(Results expressed in parts per million).

Total solid residue on evaporation at 103°C.	...	...	...	372
Total hardness (as CaCO ₃)	...	...	...	250
Temporary hardness (alkalinity)	...	...	...	190
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	60
Combined chlorine (Cl)	...	...	...	24
Heavy (toxic metals)	...	...	...	-
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	...	0.40
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	...	...	0.32
Nitrous nitrogen	...	...	...	-
Nitric nitrogen	...	...	...	1.6
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 26.7°C.	...	...	...	6.3
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	7.8

Note that when recording the organic analysis the ammoniacal nitrogen refers to "free and saline ammonia", the albuminoid nitrogen to "albuminoid ammonia", the nitrous nitrogen to the presence (or absence) of nitrite and the nitric nitrogen figure to the amount of nitrate present - all expressed as nitrogen.

Physical Characteristics

The water possessed a distinct opalescence and had a slight brownish colour; it was free from odour and contained traces only of dark brown amorphous sediment.

Analyst's Observations

The high yields of ammoniacal and albuminoid nitrogen and the presence of much oxidisable matter (as indicated by the oxygen absorption test) are to be expected in a supply which is subject to sensible infiltration of vegetable organic matter. The supply, moreover, shows variable mineral characteristics.

Sample submitted by Health Department:-

Treated Water from Consumer's Tap

(Results expressed in parts per hundred-thousand).

Colour	...	Normal
Turbidity	...	Very slight deposit
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	0.175
Free and saline ammonia (as NH ₃)	...	0.0054
Albuminoid ammonia (as NH ₃)	...	0.0146
Nitrous nitrogen (as NH ₃)	...	-
Nitric nitrogen (as NH ₃)	...	0.05
Chlorides (as Cl)	...	2.2
Hardness, Temporary	...	5
Clarke's method Permanent	...	15
Total	...	20
Reaction, pH	...	8.5
Action on lead in 24 hours	...	0.08
Aluminium	...	Very slight trace
Zinc	...	-
Copper	...	-
Lead	...	-
Iron	...	-

(b) Sewage Disposal.

The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following information.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Windy Arbour are modern and consist of sedimentation tanks, filters, humus tanks and sludge drying beds. The effluent is discharged into the River Weaver.

All sewage is pumped to the works from Beam Bridge Pumping Station. The storm water is dealt with at Beam Bridge Pumping Station where the storm water tanks deal with all flows above 3 d.w.f. and discharge it to the River Weaver.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Weaver flows through the district and this, along with other minor watercourses, is kept under observation for the prevention of pollution. The Sanitary Inspector refers in his report to an instance of pollution which has caused concern.

3. (a) Closet Accommodation.

All premises in the district are served by water closets with the exception of those of which the Sanitary Inspector gives details in his report under the heading "Pail Closets".

(b) Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse, trade refuse and night-soil is controlled by the Surveyor, as also is street cleansing. Collection is by horse drawn vehicles and team labour and disposal is by tipping.

(c) Public Baths.

The Open Air Brine Swimming Pool, owned and controlled by the Council, is open from May to September each year. The pool is 100 feet by 50 feet and is supplied with brine from the Council's brine well at the rear of the Town Hall. About 9 ounces of brine is added per gallon of water. The pool is not heated but the water is filtered and sterilized by the chloramine process and fed to the pool through a cascade.

Mixed bathing is allowed and dressing boxes for both sexes are provided. Cafe facilities are available.

(d) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(e) Shops and Offices.

(f) Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites.

(g) Eradication of Bugs.

(h) Smoke Abatement.

These matters are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in his report.

SECTION D.

Housing.

A large number of houses are urgently needed for rehousing persons in unfit houses, separating families and relieving overcrowding. The Sanitary Inspector has dealt more fully with this matter in his report.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food, Milk Supply, Meat and Other Foods.

These matters are fully covered in the Sanitary Inspector's report. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

SECTION F.

1. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The state of immunisation against diphtheria is fairly satisfactory and general practitioners have had no cases of this disease during the year. Seven specimens were examined for diphtheria and all proved negative.

Number of children immunised during year	under 5 years	...	...	...	116
	from 5 to 15 years	...	...	...	28
	TOTAL	...	...	...	144
Estimated child population	under 5 years	...	...	...	707
	from 5 to 15 years	...	...	...	1,265
	TOTAL	...	...	...	1,972
Estimated number of children immunised	under 5 years	...	...	...	247
	from 5 to 15 years	...	...	...	815
	TOTAL	...	...	...	1,062
Estimated percentage of children immunised	under 5 years	...	...	...	34.9%
	from 5 to 15 years	...	...	...	64.8%
	TOTAL	...	...	...	53.8%

A free scheme for protection against whooping cough similar to that for diphtheria has just commenced.

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received; all the scarlet fever cases were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths arising from these diseases.

Disease	Age Groups									TOTAL
	0/1	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	
Scarlet fever	-	-	3	2	1	4	2	1	-	13
Whooping cough	12	6	12	12	11	13	-	-	-	66
Measles	4	7	1	8	3	12	-	-	1	36
TOTAL	16	13	16	22	15	29	2	1	1	115

2. (a) Prevention of Blindness.

There was no special action by the Local Authority during the year.

(b) Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (tuberculous persons in milk trade) or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (compulsory removal to sanatorium).

New cases and mortality during 1948

All deaths were notified cases except one pulmonary case who died at Bristol and one non-pulmonary non-resident who died in the Isolation Hospital.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
35 - 45	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	3	1	1	3	1	1	1
	10		2		4		2	

Register of cases

	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases on register 1st January, 1948	25	12	10	9	35	21
Cases notified for first time during year	6	3	1	1	7	4
Cases added on transfer from other districts	1	-	-	-	1	-
Cases removed during year - died, removed from district, etc.	6	1	1	1	7	2
Cases on register 31st December, 1948	26	14	10	9	36	23

There were 40 specimens of sputum examined at the County Public Health Laboratory, 6 being positive and 34 negative.

After death of a patient or removal to sanatorium all bedding, rooms, etc. were disinfected.

SECTION G.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act

- (a) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	3	-	-
ii. factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	21	1	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority* (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	1	1	-
TOTAL	84	25	2	-

*i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

(b) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1).	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
a. insufficient	2	1	-	1	-
b. unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
c. not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	2	-	2	-

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel - making, etc. e	17	-	-	-	-	-

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Brookfield House,
NANTWICH.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Nantwich Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1948 for your information and consideration.

The year has been noteworthy as one of importance in the Health Services of the Country with the coming into force of important measures as a result of which the control of certain services has been transferred to the Ministry of Health and the County Council.

Progress has been possible in a limited degree in the improvement of environmental conditions; it is pleasing to report a further reduction in the number of pail closets and the provision of sinks and internal water supply in several instances. There has been steady progress in the provision of further housing accommodation but we are not yet in a position to turn attention to the general large scale improvement necessary in housing conditions by reconditioning or demolition.

During the year the County Council delegated to the Urban Council all responsibility for administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act and Infestation Orders.

I am grateful for the clerical and general assistance to me by Mr. M. B. Elliott upon his return from military service. He is proving himself useful, shows an interest in the work and has commenced preliminary study with a view to qualifying as a Sanitary Inspector.

I would record appreciation of the opportunity of attending, from time to time, conferences of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Association and of the co-operation of members and officers of the Council during the year.

Yours faithfully,


Sanitary Inspector.

I. NUMBER AND NATURE OF VISITS MADE.

Appointments - Owners	20
- Contractors	63
Courts, Passages and Streets	4
Dairies and Cowsheds	10
Disinfections	16
Disinfestations	6
Drain Tests	17
Dust Bins	37
Dwellinghouses - Public Health Acts	27
- Housing Act	2
Factories - Mechanical	21
- Non-mechanical	3
- Building Sites	1
Factory Outworkers	14
Food Inspection	47
Food Premises - General	36
- Registered Premises	38
House Drainage	195
Housing - Interviews with Applicants for Council Houses	481
- Visits to Applicants for Council Houses	61
- Individual Unfit Houses	6
Ice Cream Sampling	7
Infectious Diseases - Primary	10
- Secondary	3
Keeping of Animals	13
Licensed Premises	24
Milk Sampling	3
Miscellaneous	115
Moveable Dwellings	9
Offensive Accumulations	5
Offices and Workplaces	2
Pail Closets	15
Places of Entertainment	1
Reinspections - Public Health Acts	112
Rivers, Ditches and Watercourses	4
Rodent Control	46
Schools	2
Shops Act, 1934	14
Slaughterhouses	8
Substitution of Water Closets	35
Tips	3
Verminous Premises	4
Water Sampling	1
TOTAL	1,541

II. NOTICES SERVED.

		Served	Complied
Public Health Act, 1936	- Informal	143	117
	- Formal		
	- Section 39	-	2
	- Section 44	-	8
	- Section 45	-	2
	- Section 75	1	3
	- Section 93	-	2
Factories Act, 1937	- Informal	2	2
	- Formal	1	-
Rats and Mice (Destruction)			
Act and Infestation Orders	- Informal	4	5
Food and Drugs Act, 1938,			
and Milk and Dairies Orders	- Informal	9	7

Compliances include notices served in previous year. Of the notices outstanding at the year end the majority are in hand by Contractors.

Complaints received and investigated ... 102

III. DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN NOTICES SERVED.

Defect	Noted	Remedied
Ceiling plaster - defective	9	3
Drains - choked	18	19
- defective and/or insufficient	17	18
Drain vent - defective	1	1
Dust bins - defective	12	21
- insufficient or absence of	1	1
Dirty conditions - walls	-	1
- floors	-	1
- yards	2	-
Defective brickwork and pointing	10	9
Dangerous structures	1	1
Fireplaces - defective	7	-
- defective and/or choked flues	3	1
- defective ovens	2	-
Floors - defective paving	7	5
- defective woodwork	6	2
Food premises - cleanliness	3	3
- refuse storage	1	1
- defective plasterwork	4	-
- defective structure	1	-
- ventilation	3	1
Factories - defective sanitary conveniences	1	1
- inadequate sanitary accommodation	2	1
House roofs - defective	19	10
Insufficient lighting	2	-
Keeping of animals - unsuitable conditions	1	-
Milk and Dairies Orders - limewashing	3	4
- general cleanliness	-	1
- paving and drainage	1	1
Miscellaneous	15	6
Offensive accumulations	6	3
Pail closets - defective pails	-	1
- defective structures	-	1
- requiring substitution of W.C.	27	18
Paving of yards - defective	7	6
Paving of passages - defective	1	-
Rainwater gutters - defective and/or choked	12	12
- insufficient	-	1
Rainwater downspouts - defective and/or choked	2	9
- insufficient	1	3
- ventilating drains	4	1
Rodent infestation	2	1
Rivers, ditches and watercourses	3	1
Sewers - private - choked	4	4
Sink and/or bath waste pipes - defective	-	2
Sinks - defective	-	1
- absence of	22	21
Ventilation - insufficient	8	2
Water closets - defective fittings	7	9
- defective structure	3	5
- insufficient accommodation	3	1
- miscellaneous matters	9	6
Windows - defective frames	15	3
- defective cords, etc	2	-
- defective cills	-	2
Water supply - not provided indoors	14	12
- defective supply pipes	8	9
Wallplaster - defective	7	4
- damp	16	6
Washing accommodation - defective	5	-
TOTAL	340	256

Of the items outstanding in the foregoing table a large number are in hand by contractors; "remedied" items include a number which were outstanding from previous years and have been done in 1948.

IV. HOUSING.

It has not been possible nor opportune to make the much needed detailed inspection of dwellings with a view to extensive repair or demolition. The continued restriction and high costs of labour and materials have made it necessary to confine requirements to essential matters connected with nuisances or dangerous conditions.

Site works were carried out and building of permanent houses proceeded at Weaver Road, Hillfield, Audlem Road and Shrewbridge Road. By the end of the year the total of post-war Council houses was brought up to 130 which provided accommodation, together with 50 temporary houses, for 626 persons. There were 52 brick houses under construction at the end of the year. Six houses were completed by private enterprise, three were in process of building and one house was converted to three flats. The principle of building two-bedroomed houses was adopted and preparation of detail is in hand.

Demolition Orders were made on three houses which were in a very bad and dangerous state. All three were vacated and one was demolished. Action was commenced on one other house with similar intent. The owner of one house gave an informal undertaking upon selection of his tenant for a Council house that the house would not be relet for human habitation. Two families in which there are tuberculous persons were granted the tenancy of Council houses. The application register for Council houses stood at more than 500 at the end of the year, and the "Points Scheme" for the selection of tenants operated after revision as the main basis for selection: several applicants were selected or upgraded on special grounds. The registration of applicants and the maintenance of records along with visits of investigation occupied a considerable amount of time; during the year Mr. S. Barlow was appointed Housing Manager and all administration connected with Council houses was transferred to him. There is close liaison between the Housing Manager and myself concerning applicants living under bad conditions or having communicable disease in the family or being statutorily overcrowded.

V. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of "notifiable" diseases were visited as soon as possible after notification; in the instance of measles and whooping cough a leaflet is sent to the parents advising on isolation and exclusion of contacts from school. Head teachers are advised of the occurrence of cases of scarlet fever, etc. The number of cases of disease notified during the year was low, there being 13 cases of scarlet fever, 36 of measles and 66 of whooping cough.

There were 10 new cases of pulmonary and two of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

Where necessary the disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out, the latter being usually removed to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

The diphtheria immunisation scheme has continued to operate and every opportunity is taken to encourage parents to have children treated. The County Council became the responsible authority for all such treatment during the year.

VI. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLY.

Present records show that there are 15 cowkeepers, five of whom are holders of Accredited and two of Tuberculin Tested Producers' licences.

Only two samples of milk were taken during the year and were submitted for biological and bacteriological examination. In addition

the Agricultural Executive Committee Milk Testing Advisory Officer takes samples from producers and retailers and the County Sanitary Officer takes samples from farms producing designated milk. The following reports were received. In the case of unsatisfactory samples the matter is taken up with the seller and producer; when the milk originates from another district the results are communicated to the Sanitary Inspector for the area.

	Grade	Tubercle Bacilli	Methylene Blue Test	Bacillus Coli	Bacterial Count
1.	Ordinary	Negative	Passed	Present .01 c.c.	28,500
2.	Ordinary	Negative	Failed	Absent	625,000

There are 22 retailers of milk on the register. The following licences, issued by the Local Authority, were in force during the year:-

Dealer's Licence to use designation	"Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)"	...	...	...	1
Dealer's Licence to use designation	"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Dealer's Licence to use designation	"Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)"	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Dealer's Licence to use designation	"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Dealer's Licence to use designation	"Pasteurised"	...	...	...	1

VII. BAKEHOUSES.

There are 14 bakehouses on the register and these are visited periodically under the Food and Drugs Act and Factories Act.

VIII. SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There were no complaints in connection with the ventilation, temperatures and sanitary conveniences in the shops which number approximately 200. There has been little opportunity for routine survey of the shops in the area owing to pressure of other work.

IX. FACTORIES.

Two references were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year. One referred to absence of sufficient water closet accommodation and one to defective accommodation. In both cases the matter was dealt with by services of notice: in the one case work was completed and in the other work was in hand at the end of the year.

One return of "Outworkers" was received and contained details of 17 persons engaged in the finishing of clothing. The houses of the outworkers were visited and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

X. WATER SUPPLY.

Two samples of water were obtained from a consumer's tap and were submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological and

chemical examination; satisfactory reports were received. Weekly samples are submitted for bacteriological examination by the Water Board and these have been satisfactory.

XI. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

One trailer caravan and temporary building were licensed as a dwelling during the year. No nuisance has arisen from the use of these structures. Occasional use is made of the land at Kingsley Fields within statutory limits and no complaints were received: there is a serious lack of facilities on this land for prolonged occupation and the licensing of this site should not be permitted.

XII. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There were no complaints in connection with the Tannery and Fellmongery during the year. Periodic treatment was carried out at the Tannery for the control of rats and mice.

XIII. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no premises of this character in the district.

XIV. CANAL BOATS.

No complaints were received and no inspections were made during the year.

XV. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It was necessary on one or two occasions to warn the Manager of the County Council Schools' Cooking Depot informally as to the emission of excessive amounts of smoke. This trouble appears to be mainly due to the quality of fuel available for use in the boilers.

XVI. SCHOOLS.

No complaints were received as to the sanitary condition of schools.

The practice of notifying Head Teachers of the incidence of infectious diseases has been continued.

XVII. LICENSED PREMISES.

Further inspections were made with particular regard to sanitary accommodation. In one instance a water closet was substituted for a pail closet; minor repairs were carried out at two premises and plans were approved for modernization and extension of accommodation at two premises. The Licensing Bench has been advised of the general unsatisfactory conditions and facilities in connection with one public house which it would appear are beyond remedy.

XVIII. VERMIN.

No serious complaints were received during the year. In several instances advice was given to occupiers to deal with minor infestations with ants and cockroaches.

XIX. ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Four premises were treated all being privately owned. "Zaldecide" and "Killgorcide" liquid insecticides containing D.D.T. were used and the premises treated are under observation.

Where considered necessary the belongings of selected tenants for Council houses are treated before moving into the houses. A limited amount of treatment is carried out for tenants of occupied premises, but the owner is held responsible for the treatment of unoccupied premises. Treatment is carried out by direct labour under my supervision.

XX. RODENT CONTROL.

One part-time operative works under my supervision in this matter. There was no occasion for formal action during the year. The Council tips and sewage works are regularly treated and during the year the systematic treatment of the sewerage system was continued. A test baiting of the sewers showed very little evidence of infestation apart from the sewage works. The baits used in treatment have been sausage rusk and bread mash and these have been poisoned with zinc phosphide, red squill, or arsenic. As from April the 1st, 1948, the County Council delegated all responsibility under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943, to the Urban District Council.

Number of Private Annual Treatment Agreements in force	...	6
Number of Short Term Private Agreements for treatment in force	...	2
Number of premises treated during the year - Council properties	12	} 23
- business premises	10	
- dwellings	1	
Number of visits by operative to premises in survey and treatment	...	294
Number of visits by officer to premises in survey and supervision	...	46
Number of premises showing no evidence upon survey	...	1
Number of premises showing clearance after treatment	...	1

The Chairman of the Council and I have continued to serve on the Workable Area Committee and the Regional Consultative Committee and have attended all meetings held during the year.

XXI. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

There were 19 Slaughtermen's licences in force during the year.

XXII. PAIL CLOSETS.

It is pleasing to report some further progress in the substitution of water closets for pail closets; eight closets were added to the register as a result of further survey, eighteen were replaced by water closets and work was in hand at the end of the year in connection with several other cases upon informal request. Where appropriate the Council have contributed to the cost of substituting water closets, such contributions not exceeding one half of the cost. The costs have been high in some cases because the position and depth of the drains existing was such that new structures had to be built. It would appear that the improvement for which one aims in the further abolition of pail closets may be seriously delayed by the restriction of contributions in appropriate cases so that all expenditure shall be within the approved estimates.

The following is the position at the end of 1948:-

Insanitary and unuseable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
In connection with unfit houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Beyond reach of sewers - extension impracticable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
- extension practicable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Within reach of sewers but premises not drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
At premises where drainage outfall requires investigation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Suitable for substitution of water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Total known to exist at beginning of 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Additions to register on further survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Abolished during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water closets substituted during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Total known to exist at end of 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80

XXIII. GENERAL SANITATION AND NUISANCES.

At two houses, hitherto having only a drain for sink waste matter passing under the house, a complete new system of drainage was installed with connection to the main sewer, including substitution of water closets for the pail closets.

In connection with 21 houses, indoor sinks were fixed and in 12 cases outdoor standpipes were abolished and replaced with mains indoor supply taps over the sinks. At 25 premises the drains were extended or reconstructed to improve facilities for waste disposal.

Two dwellings were provided with bathrooms and two with additional indoor water closet accommodation.

Two graves were opened at the General Cemetery and remains were transferred under licence by the Home Office. These operations were carried out satisfactorily without nuisance.

XXIV. RIVER POLLUTION.

General observation on watercourses is maintained and in the autumn a serious pollution of the River Weaver occurred with destruction of fish life. There is, and has been for some time apparently, a discharge of gas liquor from the local Gas Works largely by percolation from a crude lagoon. Under normal conditions the dilution by the flow of water in the river has apparently been sufficient to prevent serious trouble: the bank of the river is however becoming saturated and occasions such as that referred to above, when the lagoon overflowed and discharged crude liquor directly into the river, give concern not only to the Local Authority but to anglers and others who find pleasure in the river.

Representations were made to the Gas Company and as it was suggested that the liquor effluent might be discharged into the public sewer I called in the Surveyor and a conference was arranged. The matter was still under consideration and subject to report at the end of the year.

XXV. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The slaughterhouses in the district have not been normally used during the year, all "butchers' meat" being prepared and distributed from Crewe. One premise was licensed upon application for the purpose of slaughtering pigs by self suppliers. Although there is no statutory control over slaughter of animals of which the meat is not intended for sale, I have an arrangement with the owner of the slaughterhouse to which pig owners are directed that I am notified of all animals for slaughter and owners are advised of my offer to examine the carcasses. I have so far had no objection to this arrangement but a certain few people have not accepted my advice in connection with

diseased meat. Unfortunately, under the circumstances, I am not empowered to seize such meat not intended for sale; representations have been made to the Ministries of Health and Food in this connection.

There has been no occasion to complain specifically in connection with the transport of meat, but a special uniform type of vehicle and standard dress for those engaged in handling meat is patiently desired.

There have been frequent requests from retailers for examination of foodstuffs and the following is a statement of goods examined:-

Food examined and found fit for human consumption.

Casserole steak	... ..	237	cans	Dripping	... ..	...	...	41	cans
Corned beef	... ..	96	cans	Pears	... ..	...	...	8	cans

Total estimated weight: 3 cwt. 3 qr. 4 lbs.

Food examined and found unfit for human consumption

Apples	... ..	1	can	Marmalade	... ..	...	1	jar
Apricots	... ..	1	can	Meat roll	... ..	...	2	cans
Bacon	... ..	1	can	Milk - condensed	... ..	...	65	cans
Baked beans	... ..	4	cans	Milk - evaporated	... ..	...	56	cans
Beans	... ..	7	cans	Mussels	... ..	...	27	cans
Beef	... ..	2	cans	Mustard	... ..	...	1	packet
Blackcurrants	... ..	1	can	Oats	... ..	...	25	packets
Brawn	... ..	1	can	Olives	... ..	...	1	bottle
Carrots	... ..	11	cans	Ox tongue	... ..	...	1	can
Casserole steak	... ..	4	cans	Paste	... ..	...	1	can
Cod	... ..	1	can	Paste	... ..	...	1	jar
Cod roe	... ..	1	can	Peaches	... ..	...	1	can
Cooking fat	... ..	1	lb.	Pears	... ..	...	16	cans
Corned beef	... ..	2	cans	Peas	... ..	...	24	cans
Crab	... ..	7	cans	Pilchards	... ..	...	18	cans
Damsons	... ..	1	can	Plums	... ..	...	20	cans
Dates	... ..	1	box	Pork	... ..	...	3	cans
Dried egg	... ..	1	can	Potted meat	... ..	...	3	cans
Dripping	... ..	1	can	Prunes	... ..	...	12	lbs.
Fish spread	... ..	1	can	Pudding mixture	... ..	...	37	packets
Fruit	... ..	11	cans	Salad cream	... ..	...	1	bottle
Grapes	... ..	2	cans	Salmon	... ..	...	3	cans
Grape-fruit	... ..	4	cans	Sausage meat	... ..	...	1	can
Grape-fruit juice	... ..	3	cans	Soup	... ..	...	12	cans
Herrings	... ..	1	can	Spaghetti	... ..	...	2	cans
Honey	... ..	4	cans	Stewed steak	... ..	...	4	cans
Hors-d'oeuvre	... ..	4	cans	Strawberries	... ..	...	1	can
Irish stew	... ..	5	cans	Tomatoes	... ..	...	1	can
Jam	... ..	5	cans	Turnips	... ..	...	1	can
Jam	... ..	7	jars	Veal loaf	... ..	...	1	can
Luncheon meat	... ..	2	cans	Vegetables	... ..	...	4	cans
Marmalade	... ..	19	cans	Walnuts	... ..	...	1	lb.

Total estimated weight: 4 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lbs.

In addition the carcasses and offal of 30 pigs, all slaughtered under licence by the Ministry of Food for private consumption, were examined and considered fit except for one whole pig, eight heads, two livers, one lung, six mesenteries and two stomachs. Of the carcasses examined 33.7% were affected in some degree by tuberculosis.

Total estimated weight of pigs examined:
3 tons 0 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lbs.

Total estimated weight of all food examined:
3 tons 9 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lbs.

Six samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination and there was no cause for complaint in the results. Four were classified Grade 2 and two Grade 3: the bacterial counts ranged between 682 and 996 per c.c. and bacillus coli was absent from all.

There is no legal standard for the bacterial quality of ice cream and one cannot judge a particular maker by one sample. Failure of a series of samples to reach grade 1 or 2 would indicate need for further investigation of equipment and methods of manufacture.

There is no ice cream made in the area by the "Hot Mix" method.

Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, has kindly given the following particulars of samples taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act during the year:-

Brawn	1	Malt vinigar	1
Butter	2	Margarine	2
Cheese	2	Milk	15
Cooking fat	2	Parrishes Chemical Food	1
Golden Raising Powder	1	Sausages	1
Jam	1	Smoked Cod Roe Spread	1
		<u>Total</u>	<u>30</u>

The fact that all of these samples were genuine is a highly satisfactory result

A D O P T I V E A N D L O C A L A C T S
IN FORCE IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

	<u>Date of adoption or when same came into force</u>
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	1st October, 1900
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890: Parts I and III Part IV 	18th July, 1894 1st September, 1901
Public Libraries Acts, 1892, 1893 and 1901, (Offences) Act, 1898	8th August, 1887
Private Street Works Act, 1892	26th April, 1895
Nantwich Urban District Council Act, 1903	21st July, 1903
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders (Confirmation) Number 7 Act, 1905	21st August, 1905
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders (Confirmation) Number 4 Act, 1907	28th August, 1907
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders (Confirmation) Number 9 Act, 1912	7th August, 1912
Local Government Act, 1894, Section 8, s.s. 1. Powers of Parish Council as to Public Offices, etc.	17th October, 1923
Local Government Act, 1894, Section 13, s.s. 2. Public Footpaths	11th July, 1924
County of Chester Review Order, 1936	1st April, 1936

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